

It was reassuring because it suggests that some proof exists. Admittedly, the lust for evidence represents a sort of mass self-delusion, a belief that somehow the 1990's didn't happen and that no weapons programs were found then. It also represents topsy-turvy thinking: that the burden of proof is on Mr. Bush, not Saddam Hussein. Still, such thinking is a reality that the White House needs to face.

Such evidence is not needed on technical, moral or legal grounds. But it is needed to secure a broad coalition, which in turn is highly desirable if the risks of war—and an unstable aftermath of war—are to be reduced. At least from this vantage point in London, the recent opposition to war heard from France and Russia looks shallow. Some credible, publicly usable evidence is all that is needed for them to be able to back a second United Nations resolution and even to offer military support.

Following President Bush's address, therefore, an extremely favorable situation looks to be within America's grasp—a broad coalition and a second resolution, both just at the time when the military buildup is reaching its peak. Saddam Hussein, no doubt, will have fresh delaying tactics up his sleeve, such as apparent, partial admissions or concessions about weapons programs with which he will hope to sow new divisions and confusion. The wider the coalition against him, and the shorter the time he has available, the lower will be his chances of success.

The president's speech brought that prospect closer. Now Colin Powell must clinch it.

THE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLEVELAND CHAPTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lithuanian American Community Cleveland Chapter and their celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence, which will take place on Sunday, February 16, 2003 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help auditorium.

The Lithuanian American Community has focused on the celebration of Lithuanian heritage and providing educational, cultural, and social services to its members. The many events it sponsors such as folk dances, art and science symposiums, and theater festivals, are always open to the public in an effort to share Lithuania's rich culture with others. The Lithuanian American Community has done an excellent job of supporting cultural interaction between the United States and Lithuania and looks forward to further integration in the West.

I would like to take this opportunity to honor and thank the leaders and members of the Lithuanian American Community of Cleveland for organizing these wonderful festivities, and for sharing their rich culture with all Clevelanders.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Lithuanian American Community Cleveland Chapter, a wonderful organization that has provided support for Lithuanian Americans, and enriched Cleveland with the contribution of their culture and heritage. May Sunday's celebration of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence be a wonderful re-

minder of Cleveland's richly diverse community, and a joyous occasion for all whom attend.

SPEECH BY GENERAL JAMES L. JONES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to General James L. Jones who recently became the first Marine to assume command of the United States European Command, EUCOM. General Jones assumed command of EUCOM in Stuttgart, Germany, on January 16, 2003. Also, in a change of command ceremony held on January 17, 2003, in Mons, Belgium, General Jones became NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share with the Members of the House the speech General Jones presented as he stepped into the command at EUCOM.

EUCOM COC REMARKS

Ambassador Coats, Members of Congress, Secretary Wolfowitz, General and Mrs. Myers, General and Mrs. Ralston, General and Mrs. Wald, State Secretary Bohmler, Lord Mayor Doctor Schuster, Professor Doctor Rommel, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Men and Women in Uniform, and Friends and Families: It is truly wonderful to be in Stuttgart again! Having been raised in Europe, and having served in this command from 1992-94, I have grown to appreciate the privilege and warmth of German hospitality—thank you one and all for welcoming us back and for making this a truly special occasion for Diane and me.

Men and women in uniform have the honor of serving our respective nations . . . and for Americans here present, it is a special responsibility to be able to serve our country overseas. America is fortunate to be a Nation of influence . . . the record of history will reveal it to be an influence for the greater good of freedom-loving people for stability and for the cause of peace in the world.

Nonetheless, we live in dangerous times . . . there are some in this world who would threaten our common ideals and our goals. They follow an ideology of illicit trade, illegal drugs, assassination, and global terrorism. They are, today, the cause of much of the suffering in the world, and so . . . it is morally right that those who love freedom . . . and are willing to defend it . . . pursue them into every dark corner of the world from which they plot and ply their trade.

We must, and will, remain vigilant and steadfast . . . victory in this global war will not come quickly . . . nor will we achieve it alone. It will take men and women of great character and courage to prevail in these demanding times—men and women such as those assembled here today . . . the men and women of the U.S. European Command working towards our common objectives in partnership with our friends and allies.

More than courage and character, qualities of principled leadership will remain vitally important. Fortunately for all of us, we have all benefited first hand from the extraordinary leadership of General and Mrs. Ralston over the past two and one-half years.

Joe and Dede, thank you both for your years of service to our Nation and to freedom loving people everywhere . . . for your caring advice and warm friendship . . . for your extraordinary generosity and thoughtfulness in

making this transition so effective and enjoyable . . . Diane and I wish you every happiness as you move into the next phase of your lives and as you go north to Alaska.

Men and women of the U.S. European Command, I am extremely humbled and proud to serve with you. Many challenges remain. We will not lack for important things to do. Where there is great challenge, there is great opportunity for those with the will and the courage to seize the moment. Now is such a moment.

The war on terrorism, changes to the unified command plan, and ongoing operations will all complete for our time and our resources . . . and we must also ensure that the quality of life provided to our families receives proper attention as well, for they play a critical role in the readiness of our force.

Diane and I look forward to working with you and your families . . . to continue to improve the spirit of security and cooperation we have worked so hard to build. To our German hosts, thank you for your warm hospitality and support . . . and to all of you present here today, thank you for making this event such a memorable one for both Diane and me.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I join my many colleagues in mourning the loss of the seven courageous men and women on board the space shuttle *Columbia*. This is indeed a tragic loss, for the families of these seven astronauts, and for our Nation. These men and women committed their lives to the pursuit of knowledge and, in that pursuit, they made the ultimate sacrifice. For their courage and self-sacrifice they will be forever remembered as heroes.

While the *Columbia* tragedy demonstrated the risks involved in manned space travel, it also reminds us that NASA has had an excellent performance record over the past four decades. The courageous and talented men and women of NASA have made discoveries in space that have profoundly improved our lives on earth. Our exploration of space, our pursuit of knowledge must go on. As the families of the *Columbia* seven have stated, we cannot look back, we must press forward with our exploration of new territories.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today, remembering these fallen heroes. I am grateful for the resolve of our astronauts, our President, and Americans everywhere to remember the past while looking to the future. I urge my colleagues to unequivocally support this resolution.

LATIN AMERICA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article to be included in the RECORD: